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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
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O 092006Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3083
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 12244

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E.O.11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: DISCUSSION OF PROVISIONS FOR ARTICLE I OF THE SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT IN NSS WORKING GROUP.

CTB MESSAGE NO. 291

1. SUMMARY: AT AUGUST 8 MEETING OF NATIONAL SEISMIC STATION (NSS) WORKING GROUP, TARASOV (USSR) ANSWERED QUESTIONS PUT BY FINCH (US) AND FAKLEY (UK) ABOUT THE SOVIET DRAFT OF ARTICLE I OF THE SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT. IN HIS REMARKS, HE SAID THAT EXCHANGE OF TAPES IS THE ONLY MEANS OF COMMUNICATING THE DATA THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE SOVIET UNION, AND THAT NSS IN THE UK WERE NECESSARY TO AVOID A DISCRIMINATORY AGREEMENT. FINCH SAID THAT WE HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT, AND DISTRIBUTED ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT IN WHICH US DEL RECAST ITS PROPOSALS IN A FORMAT SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE SOVIET DRAFT (PARA 5 BELOW). HE POINTED
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OUT THAT THIS TEXT CONTINUES TO REFLECT OUR POSITION, THAT THERE SHOULD BE DETAILED PROVISIONS IN THE ANNEX REGARDING EQUIPMENT CHARACTERISTICS, AUTHENTICATION, DATA TRANSMISSION, SITE SELECTION, INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. TARASOV OPENED AUG 8 MEETING OF NSS SUBGROUP BY READ-

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ING A STATEMENT(TO BE SENT BY AIRGRAM) EXPRESSING HIS SENSE THAT THE DELEGATIONS APPEARED TO BE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH REGARD TO SEVERAL CONCEPTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE TEXT OF ARTICLE I OF THE SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT THERE WAS SOME MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WITH RESPECT TO ISSUES RAISED BY THE ANNEX, ALTHOUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN US PROPOSALS COULD COMPLICATE THE PREPARATION OF AN ANNEX.

3. TARASOV ANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SOVIET DRAFT THAT HAD BEEN PUT TO HIM BY FINCH AND FAKLEY AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING. HE SAID THAT EXCHANGE OF MAGNETIC TAPES IS THE ONLY METHOD OF DATA TRANSMISSION ACCEPTABLE TO THE SOVIET UNION AND ADDED A FURTHER REASON TO THOSE HE HAD CITED AT THE LAST MEETING -- THAT THE USE OF INTELSAT WILL "DEPRIVE NATIONAL SEISMIC STATIONS OF THEIR NATIONAL CHARACTER" AND MAKE THE SOVIET UNION DEPENDENT ON TECHNICAL MEANS OVER WHICH IT HAS NO CONTROL. HE PROPOSED THAT THE TAPES BE EXCHANGED ON A REGULAR MONTHLY BASIS, AND SAID THAT THE SCHEDULE FOR TRANSFERRING TAPE WAS NOT CRITICAL BECAUSE PARTIES WOULD BE RECEIVING LEVEL ONE DATA AND COULD CONSULT OR REQUEST AN OSI AT ANY TIME. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY FINCH, HE SAID THAT THE TIME REQUIRED FOR PHYSICAL TRANSMISSION OF THE TAPES FROM THE STATIONS TO THE OTHER PARTIES WOULD DEPEND ON THE LOCATIONS OF THE STATIONS BUT WOULD NOT BE LONG. HE SAID

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THE SOVIETS CONSIDER STATIONS IN THE UK TO BE "REASONABLE AND NECESSARY"; IF SUCH STATIONS WERE NOT REQUIRED OF ALL NUCLEAR WEAPON STATE PARTIES, THE VERIFICATION MEASURES WOULD APPEAR EXCESSIVE IN RELATION TO THOSE NUCLEAR WEAPON STATE PARTIES THAT WERE REQUIRED TO OPERATE STATIONS. THE SOVIET UNION COULD NOT AGREE TO DISCRIMINATORY VERIFICATION MEASURES. IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER STATIONS COULD BE RELOCATED IF PROJECTED NOISE LEVELS WERE UNSATISFACTORY, HE SAID THAT THE NOISE LEVEL OF A STATION IS AN OBJECTIVE VALUE, UNRELATED TO HUMAN DESIRES. IF WE AGREE THAT A STATION IS NEEDED AT A GIVEN LOCATION, ITS NOISE LEVEL WILL HAVE TO BE ACCEPTED "AT LEAST IN THE INITIAL STAGE." IF, DURING THAT STAGE, THE PARTIES CONCLUDE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE AND NECESSARY TO MOVE THE STATION TO A LESS NOISY SITE IN THE AREA, RELOCATION COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 3 OF ARTICLE I OP THE SOVIET DRAFT OF THE TECHNICAL ANNEX.

4. FINCH THANKED TARASOV AND CONFIRMED THAT WE HAD A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO DOCUMENT OUR AREAS OF AGREEMENT AS A FIRST STEP TOWARD THE WORKING OUT OF

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MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE FORMULATIONS REGARDING NATIONAL SEISMIC STATIONS. BECAUSE THERE WERE LARGE AREAS OF AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE ARTICLE, THE US DEL HAD RECAST ITS PROPOSALS FOR THE ARTICLE IN A FORMAT SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE SOVIET DRAFT, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE OUR WORK. FINCH DISTRIBUTED THE FOLLOWING ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT, INDICATING THAT THE CROSS REFERENCES TO THE ANNEX REFERRED TO THE DRAFT ANNEX THAT WE HAD DESCRIBED ON MAY 8.

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5. BEGIN TEXT: 1. WHILE TAKING PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF SEISMIC DATA, THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION SHALL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN AN EXCHANGE OF ADDITIONAL SEISMIC DATA FROM NATIONAL SEISMIC STATIONS DESIGNATED AND LOCATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 1 OF ARTICLE I OF THE TECHNICAL ANNEX TO THIS AGREEMENT. THE LOCATIONS OF THE NATIONAL SEISMIC STATIONS MAY BE CHANGED BY AGREEMENT IN THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION.

2. THE NATIONAL SEISMIC STATIONS SHALL BE OPERATED BY THE PERSONNEL OF THE PARTICIPANT ON WHOSE TERRITORY THEY ARE LOCATED.

3. WITH RESPECT TO EACH NATIONAL SEISMIC STATION, THE EXCHANGE OF ADDITIONAL SEISMIC DATA SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED

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IN TWO PHASES:

A) DURING THE FIRST PHASE, WHICH SHALL BEGIN WHEN THIS
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AGREEMENT ENTERS INTO FORCE, THE PARTICIPANTS SHALL
EXCHANGE DATA IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES BASED ON THOSE
BEING ESTABLISHED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE, AND,
UNTIL THOSE PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN DETERMINED, IN ACCORDANCE
WITH PROCEDURES BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT
OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF SEISMIC EXPERTS OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (DOCUMENTS CCD/558).

B) THE SECOND PHASE OF THE OPERATION OF THE STATIONS
SHALL BE INITIATED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 1 OF
ARTICLE I OF THE TECHNICAL ANNEX, BY THE COMMENCEMENT OF
THE OPERATION OF IMPROVED EQUIPMENT AGREED BETWEEN THE
PARTICIPANTS AND CONFORMING TO THE CHARACTERISTICS SET
FORTH IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF ARTICLE I OF THE TECHNICAL ANNEX.
DURING THE SECOND PHASE, EACH STATION SHALL BE OPERATED
CONTINUOUSLY AND ALL OF ITS DATA EXCHANGED AS PROVIDED IN
PARAGRAPH 2(C) OF ARTICLE I OF THE TECHNICAL ANNEX.

4. DURING THE FIRST PHASE, A DESIGNATED NATIONAL SEISMIC
STATION SHALL BE OPERATED WITH EXISTING EQUIPMENT. DURING
THE SECOND PHASE, THE IMPROVED EQUIPMENT SHALL BE USED.

5. DURING THE SECOND PHASE, THE IMPROVED EQUIPMENT SHALL
INCLUDE AN AUTHENTICATION DEVICE USING THE METHOD OF
AUTHENTICATION SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH 2(A)(1)(G) OF
ARTICLE I OF THE TECHNICAL ANNEX.

6. THE IMPROVED EQUIPMENT SHALL BE INSTALLED, OPERATED,
AND MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES SET FORTH
IN PARAGRAPHS 3 - 7 OF ARTICLE I OF THE TECHNICAL ANNEX.

7. SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF
THIS ARTICLE AND ARTICLE I OF THE TECHNICAL ANNEX SHALL BE
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DEVELOPED BY THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION ESTABLISHED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE BLANK OF THIS AGREEMENT, AND
SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE WHEN AGREED UPON BY THE COMMISSION.
END TEXT.

6. FINCH POINTED OUT THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

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BETWEEN THE US AND SOVIET APPROACHES. HE NOTED WE HAD DRAFTED THE LANGUAGE TO PROVIDE ONLY FOR US AND USSR PARTICIPATION, SINCE WE DID NOT BELIEVE STATIONS WERE NECESSARY IN THE UK. WE PREFERRED TO THINK OF TWO PHASES IN THE LIFE OF EACH STATION, RATHER THAN TWO STAGES IN THE PROCESSES OF DATA EXCHANGE, BECAUSE IMPROVED EQUIPMENT WOULD NOT BE INSTALLED SIMULTANEOUSLY AT ALL STATIONS AND IT WOULD BE LESS CONFUSING TO DATE THE ONSET OF THE SECOND PHASE FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATION OF SUCH EQUIPMENT AT EACH STATION. OUR DRAFT HAS MADE EXPLICIT PROVISION FOR THE BEGINNING OF PHASE ONE AND REFERS TO PROCEDURES TO BE USED BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC DATA EXCHANGE IS ORGANIZED. IN EXPLANATION OF PARA 4, FINCH INDICATED THAT IF WE AGREED ON THE LOCATION OF A STATION IN AN AREA WHERE NO STATION PRESENTLY EXISTED, THE LANGUAGE OF PARA 4 COULD BE ALTERED TO INDICATE THAT SUCH A STATION WOULD NOT BE OPERATIONAL DURING ITS "FIRST PHASE", AND WOULD HAVE NO EQUIPMENT AT ALL UNTIL THE IMPROVED EQUIPMENT WAS INSTALLED FOR THE SECOND PHASE. OUR SEVERAL CROSS-REFERENCES TO THE ANNEX MAKE CLEAR OUR CONTINUED VIEW THAT THE ANNEX MUST CONTAIN DETAILED PROVISIONS REGARDING EQUIPMENT CHARACTERISTICS, AUTHENTICATION, DATA TRANS-MISSION, SITE SELECTION, INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE. SCHEDULES FOR IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN PARA 1 OF THE TECHNICAL ANNEX, NOT LEFT TO BE DETERMINED BY THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION. FINCH, SUPPORTED BY FAKLEY, ADDED THAT HE HOPED THAT THE DELS WOULD BE ABLE TO BEGIN TO DEVELOP A COMPOSITE BRACKETED TEXT OF THE ARTICLE BEFORE TOO LONG. TARASOV THANKED FINCH FOR HIS COMMENTS AND SAID THAT HE WOULD

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STUDY THE US DEL'S SUGGESTIONS. JOHNSON

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